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REVIEWS AND CRITICISMS

it is issued as only a bulletin) should go out unprovided with an adequate index. It is to be hoped that this notable record of substantial achievement will prove an inspiration to the American branch of the I. K. V.

University of Pittsburg.

ARTHUR J. TODD.

GEFANGNISRECHT UND RECHT DER FURSORGEERZIEHUNG. By *Professor Dr. Berthold Freudenthal*. Sonderabdruck aus Band V. *Enzyklopädie der Rechtswissenschaft in systematischer Bearbeitung*. Siebente Aufl. 1914.

The central doctrine of this constitution of a German scholar who knows American conditions well, is that the essential regulations of correctional institutions should be contained in the national law. In the German Empire the criminal code is national, while the prison regulations are issued by administrative boards of the several states. Under a constitutional government all that affects the rights of persons and the interests of the people should be under the control of the legislature which represents the people. The danger of imposing unequal penalties on convicts, and of adding to the deprivation of liberty, injury to the body or loss of property, is considerable. Such matters should not be subject to caprice or to administrative arbitrariness. A certain range of discretion in details is admitted to be desirable. The Wisconsin Industrial Commission is working at a similar problem. (See J. R. Commons: "Labor and Administration.")

One could wish that this very competent author had discussed more fully the basis on which the law should rest, whether tradition, or assumed "principles" applied deductively, or induction from experience and results of trial. If the inductive method is to be used, then room must be provided for experimentation. The author gives generous acknowledgment of the improvements introduced in America; but these are largely due to the freedom of individual initiative and variety of experiment in the various states. We must admit that this variety and freedom have produced many undesirable effects, and that our statistical records are too imperfect to be reliable exhibits of actual results; but the advantages are great. Would it not be possible to bring our administration under a "law of correction," while maintaining at least some of the advantages of variety of methods? There should be some safe middle ground between ossification by statute and arbitrary warden-made law which sets the constitution aside for a passing fancy or invention.

Throughout the discussion of systems and methods of various countries are scattered wise suggestions of improvement. The treatment of our reformatories, parole system, "indeterminate sentence" (or "relatively determinate"), and reform schools, is brief but sympathetic and intelligent. The sketch of prison reform contains a remarkable characterization of the historic phases of development in few words. The argument for paying prisoners a gratuity is ingenious and novel. Cellular and community life in prison is treated with discrimination. Alto-

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gether this short work is one of the most instructive and critical contributions to the subject and deserves translation into English to make it more widely useful.

University of Chicago.

CHARLES R. HENDERSON.

ALCOHOLIC IMBECILITY. General Presentation as a Foundation for the Practical and Criminal Care of Drunkards. By *Dr. F. Schaefer*, Anstaltsdirektor, Geh. Sanitätsrat.

This little brochure of 60 pages is a very ambitious and specially diffuse German effort to discuss the above question. The author divides the topics into five parts, the first is experimental results; the second, the etymology; the third is the practical; fourth, the new German method of correction, and the fifth, some general conclusions and statistics.

Under these different heads there is a great deal of elaboration and grouping of symptoms and an attempt to merge them into some particular system of movement. The American reader is confused by this effort to divide the symptoms and tabulate them.

The author evidently thinks that a minute analysis of the symptoms, which are so complex, and mixed, one with another, is a contribution to the study. In this there will be some difference of opinion. In the introduction, he recognizes and defends this effort, saying that it is necessary to a proper conception and recognition of the sickness of the drunkard.

The book seems to be intended for laymen and lawyers, and while it may appear very exhaustive in minuteness, is sadly lacking in clearness and directness of statement. Some facts are new to the ordinary readers, thus the cells do not allow certain materials to enter into them, but exercises a selective affinity for certain substances. Alcohol is one of these: it dissolves the fatty-like substitutes called Lippoids which are found between the white of an egg and the fat in the middle. The cell membrane resembles Lippoids and is most quickly disturbed by alcohol.

No other substance poisons the cells so quickly, and the largest quantity is found in the brain. When alcohol enters into the organs, it is in the form of a vapor at a very low temperature and this produces serious derangements. In the chemico-physiological action of alcohol, he mentions that it deprives cells of their acidity and thus lowers their vitality and lessens their power of resistance. Other very interesting facts are mentioned, the significance of which can best be appreciated by the pathologist.

In the methods of correction, questions of responsibility, general control and punishment, are not equal in broad knowledge of the subject to the discussions of the effects of alcohol.

Several different systems of treatment and control are mentioned that are already disregarded and proved to be inefficient.

The author is not happy in his discussion of this part of the subject, nor is he acquainted with the efforts in this country nor in England to any great extent. Taken together this little book is a very useful con-